

**DC Commission on the
Arts and Humanities
Presents
Poetry Out Loud
State Recitation Contest**



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is Poetry Out Loud?

Poetry Out Loud (POL) is a national arts education program that encourages the study of great poetry by offering educational materials and recitation contests to high schools across the country.

The program starts in the classroom, with participating teachers using the Poetry Out Loud teacher toolkit to teach poetry recitation and run classroom competitions. Following a pyramid structure, classroom winners advance to a school-wide competition, then to a District-wide competition, and ultimately to the National Finals in Washington, DC. Poetry Out Loud is for high-school students (grades 9 – 12) at public and private schools.

How do I register?

Schools must complete a POL School Registration Form found on the DCCA website, www.dccarts.dc.gov. Participating schools must appoint a primary point of contact to communicate with the DC Commission about material distribution, school-level competitions and school finalists.

What will we win?

The District champion receives \$200 and will go on to compete at the National Finals in Washington, DC. The District champion's school will receive a \$500 stipend for the purchase of poetry books. One runner-up will receive \$100 and his or her school will receive \$200 for the purchase of poetry books.

A total of \$50,000 in awards and school stipends will be given at the Poetry Out Loud National Finals, with a \$20,000 award for the National Champion.

What is the timeline?

Participating schools will execute the program throughout the fall term and select a school finalist to participate in the District-wide competition in March 2015. The national competition will be held in April 2015.

How are poems selected?

All poems used in competition must be selected from the current online anthology available at www.poetryoutloud.org.

Are there additional resources?

The NEA and the Poetry Foundation have created a standards-based curriculum and teacher's guide. Many teachers use Poetry Out Loud in addition to, or as an extension of their existing curriculum.

Upon registration, each participating teacher will receive a toolkit consisting of a program and audio guide.

The DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities offers participating schools the opportunity to work with teaching artists in a workshop format. Teaching artists will help coach students in recitation and comprehension prior to school-wide competitions. Participation is not mandatory, but is strongly encouraged. Sample workshops are available.

Additional questions?

Contact the Commission's Arts Education team

David Markey, Arts Education Coordinator
202-671-1354, David.Markey@dc.gov

Ariel Wilson, Arts Education Program Associate
202-671-1362, Ariel.Wilson@dc.gov